

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

IO-10 ACDA-10 AID-05 DPW-01 /093 W

----- 074454

R 270855Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3834

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: TEXT OF MAY 26 MEMORIAL DAY SPEECH AT AMERICAN CEMETERY
BY PRESIDENT MARCOS (READ BY EXECSEC MELCHOR)

BEGIN TEXT: IS IS SAID THAT MEMORIAL DAY OR THE PRACTICE OF
DECORATING THE GRAVES OF FALLEN SOLDIERS GREW SPONTANEOUSLY
IN THE UNITED STATES. TWO YEARS AFTER THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR,
SOME WOMEN IN THE SOUTHERN STATES STARTED DECORATING THE GRAVES
NOT ONLY OF THE CONFEDERATE DEAD BUT ALSO OF THE UNION DEAD.
QUICKLY THE IDEA CAUGHT ON UNTIL NEARLY EVERY STATE ENACTED
A LAW DECLARING A MEMORIAL DAY.

TODAY, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, I FEEL PRIVILEGED TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

TODAY WE LAY BRIGHT FRESH FLOWERS AT THE GRAVES OF
THOSE WHO DIED FIGHTING FOR THEIR COUNTRY. MOST OF THE
AMERICANS--AND FILIPINOS--WHO SLEEP IN THESE GRAVES WERE
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IDENTIFIED WITH RECENT GREAT EPISODES IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY.

MOST OF THEM DIED FIGHTING FOR THE AMERICAN FLAG BUT ALSO IN BEHALF OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR. MANY OF THEM DIED FIGHTING IN THE BATTLEFIELDS OF BATAAN AND CORREIGIDOR.

AND MANY OF THEM DIED IN THE DEEP FAITH THAT THEY HAD ADVANCED THE CAUSE OF HUMAN LIBERTY AND SELF-DETERMINATION FO PEOPLES.

WE, THE VETERANS, WHO SURVIVED THESE ORDEALS THAT CLAIMED THEIR LIVES CANNOT BUT PERMANENTLY TREASURE THEIR MEMORIES ND CONSECRATE THEIE FINAL RESTING PLACES IN OUR OWN SOIL.

WE PAUSE BEDORE THESE GRAVES NOT ONLY TO VENERATE THE DEAD BUT ALSO TO LEARN FROM THEM AND FROM THE SACRIFICE. THESE GRAVES ARE ALSO SINGPOSTS OF HISTORY.

THERE IS NOTHING AMBIGUOUS ABOUT THE CAUSE FOR WHICH THESE MEN LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES.

FOR SO LONG AS AMERICA FOUGHT WARS IDENTIFIED NOT ONLY WITH HER NATIONAL INTEREST BUT WITH THE BROADER CAUSE OF HUMAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND FREEDOM; SUCH AS IN THE PAST TWO GLOBAL WARS, THE SACRIFICES OF HER SONS HAD EXCITED WORLD RESPECT, ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE. THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION STRUCT DEEP CHORDS IN THE HEARTS OF ALL THE STRUGGLING NATIONS. AND IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, MOST OF THE NEW NATIONS LOOKED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR INSPIRATION AND GUIDANCE AS THEY SET ABOUT THE TASK OF CHARTING AN INDEPENDENT COURSE.

THE THREE DECADES THAT FOLLOWED, HOWEVER, SET THE UNITED STATES ON A COURSE NOT ONLY OF COLLISION WITH INTER-NATIONAL COMMUNISM BUT ALSO A GROWING CONFRONTATION WITH MUCH OF THE THIRD WORLD, WHICH USED TO DOTE ON HER TRADITIONS. THE DEVELOPING NATIONS FOUND THEMSELVES INCREASINGLY ESTRANGED FROM THE NATION THEY ONCE MOST ADMIRER--BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT AMERICA'S SELF-RIGHTEOUS ROLE AS SAVIOR AND UNCLASSIFIED

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TEACHER OF DECMOCRACY CONSTRAINED AND CURTAILED THEIR OWN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE FORMS OF GOVERNMENTS BEST SUITED TO THEIR TRADITIONS AND ASPIRATIONS.

WE HAVE SEEN THIS CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE THIRD WORLD RIPEN TO A DENOUEMENT IN INDO-CHINA. IN VIEW OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, IT IS NOT

INCORRECT TO SAY THAT THE HEROISM OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS
IN VIETNAM IS SHROUDED IN MORAL AND HISTORICAL AMBIGUITIES.
THIS CONSIDERATION SHOULD LEND TO MEMORIAL DAY THIS YEAR
A GREATER ASPECT OF TRAGEDY IN WHICH AN OVERWHELMING
MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES, WHILE HONORING
THOSE WHO DIED, HAVE FRANKLY QUESTIONED WHAT THEY DIED FOR.

SOLDIERS, OF COURSE, ARE TAUGHT NOT TO ASK WHAT THEY
DIE FOR; THE PRESUMPTION IS THAT THE POLITICAL JUDGEMENT
WHICH HAS SENT THEM TO THEIR DEATHS IS INFALLIBLE. THERE
IS NOWHERE IN AMERICAN HISTORY A JUDGMENT THAT HAS RIVEN
THE HEART OF AMERICA MORE DEEPLY OR DIVIDED THAT NATION
MORE INTENSELY. BUT SOLDIERS ARE MERE SURROGATES OF THE PEOPLE WHO, IN
THE LAST RECKONING, MUST DECIDE WHETHER
THE CAUSE THEY FIGHT FOR IS JUST AND NECESSARY.

I HOPE THE DAY COMES WHEN SOME WOMEN IN VIETNAM START
DECORATING THE GRAVES NOT ONLY OF THEIR OWN DEAD BUT ALSO OF
THE YOUNG MEN FROM AMERICA WHO DIED IN THAT WAR--YOUNG MEN
SO INNOCENT OF POLITICAL GUILF, YOUNG MEN WHO SO ARDENTLY
LOVED THEIR COUNTRY. AND MAY I ALSO SAY THIS FOR SOME

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FILIPINO SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN THAT WAR.

AT THE SAME TIME, HISTORY DOES NOT PAUSE, UNLIKE
THE LIVING, AT THE GRAVES OF THOSE WHO DIED.

THE EVENTS IN INDOCHINA FOREWARN THE OTHER NATIONS
OF SOUTHEAST ASIA THAT THE TIME FOR SELF-RELIANCE IS AT
HAND; THAT THERE CAN BE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR INDEPENDENCE
AND THE NEED TO MASTER ONE'S OWN DESTINY.

THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE PHILIPPINES IS THUS FIRMLY
AND INEXORABLY SET: WE AIM TO BUILD OUT OWN CAPABILITIES
IN DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY THAT WILL NOT DEPEND ON THE
TEMPORARY GRACE OR FAVOR OF ANY OTHER NATION. OUR CAPACI-
TIES FOR SELF-DEFENSE MUST BE ROOTED IN THE BEDROCK OF
NATIONAL WILL CONSTANTLY NOURISHED BY ACTS OF SELF-RELIANCE
AND SELF-SACRIFICE. NO AMOUNT OF MILITARY HARDWARE OR
SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF THE FIGHTING
STRENGTH THAT CAN DERIVE ONLY FROM SELF-RELIANCE.

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IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE RECOGNITION OF THIS PRINCIPLE
WILL HELP AMERICA REGAIN ITS MORAL AUTHORITY IN THE WORLD
AND HELP HER HEAL THE BREACH THAT HAS GROWN UP BETWEEN
HER AND MANY DEVELOPING NATIONS. AMERICA, THE LAND OF
THE FREE, MUST NOT BEGRUDGE OTHER NATIONS A SIMILAR AMBITION
AND ASPIRATION FOR THEIR OWN PEOPLES. AMERICA RETURNING
TO THE GREAT WATERSHED OF ITS HISTORY IN THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WILL SIGNAL A NEW ERA OF
RECONCILIATION AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE THIRD WORLD. AND
THE UNDOUBTED STRENGTH AND VALOR OF HER ARMS WILL ONCE
AGAIN BE ACCEPTED AS A MAJOR FACTOR IN FAVOR OF PEACE
AND JUSTICE IN THE WORLD.

THAT SUCH A POSSIBILITY EXISTS IN THE WAKE OF VIETNAM
CANNOT BE GAIN SAID. AMERICA HISTORICALLY HAS BEEN
IDENTIFIED WITH THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN LIBERTY AND EQUALITY.
MOST OF THOSE WHO DIED FIGHTING HER WARS HAD CONSCIOUSLY
FOUGHT AND DIED FOR THOSE IDEALS. TODAY WE OFFER THEM NOT
ONLY FRESH FLOWERS CUT FROM PHILIPPINE SOIL BUT IN OUR
HEARTS WE FORM GARLANDS OF RESPECT AND GRATITUDE FOR THEIR
NOBLE SACRIFICES, TOGETHER WITH THE PRAYER THAT THEY WOULD
NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN. END TEXT

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